

Message Text

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ACTION IO-14

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 DEAE-00 CIAE-00 INR-10 JUSE-00 NSAE-00

RSC-01 SNM-02 SY-10 TRSE-00 USIA-15 NSC-10 SCI-06

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R 010935 FEB 74

FM USMISSION GENEVA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 3730

UNCLAS GENEVA 636

PASS DOT FOR TPI-40, TAD-254, AND FRA

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ECE, XG

SUBJECT: ECE-INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE-ILLCIT DRUG TRAFFIC

1. INLAND TRANSPORT COMMITTEE HELD BRIEF BUT FRUITFUL DISCUSSION ON U.S.-TURKISH DRAFT RESOLUTION REFERRED FROM GROUP OF EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS (TRANS/392). DRAFT WAS ADOPTED WITHOUT DISSENT.

2. TURDEY INITIATED DISCUSSION NOTING THAT IT IS MEMBER OF CND ANS UB-COMMISSION ON MIDDLE EAST. SINCE OPIUM BAN INSTITUTED, GOT CONCERNED THAT TURKEY MAY BE MAJOR TRANSIT AREA BOTH FOR TRUCKS UNDER TIR CARNETS AS WELL AS OTHER VEHICLES. AMOUNT OF ILLICIT DRUG SEIZURE ON TIR TRUCKS HAS BEEN LARGE, CITING RECENT SEIZURE OF 104 KILOS OF CANNABIS IN ISTANBUL. GOT ATTACHES IMPORTANCE TO DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH IS IN KEEPING WITH EFFORTS TO COMBAT ILLICIT DRUG TRAFFIC.

3. U.S. NOTED THAT CND HAD DISCUSSED THIS TOPIC AT ITS 25TH SESSION AND THAT AD HOC COMMITTEE ON ILLICIT TRAFFIC IN THE NEAR AND MIDDLE EAST HAD RECOMMENDED STUDY OF MEASURES TO PREVENT SMUGGLING OF DRUGS IN VEHICLES CARRYING GOODS UNDER COVER OF TIR CARNET. ECE
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EXPERTS ON CUSTOMS QUESTIONS AGREED THAT IT SHOULD TAKE NOTICE OF PROBLEM. U.S. HAD SUBMITTED DRAFT RESOLUTION WHICH CO-SPONSORED BY TURKEY. STATEMENT BY TURKISH REP CONCERNING RECENT SEIZURE HIGHLIGHTED CONTINUING IMPORTANCE OF PROBLEM. FAVORABLE ACTION WAS THEREFORE REQUESTED ON DRAFT RESOLUTION.

4. ROMANIA, ITALY, CANADA, NETHERLANDS, UK, BULGARIA, GDR, FRG, YUGOSLAVIA, SWITZERLAND AND FRANCE SPOKE IN SUPPORT OF RESOLUTION.

5. ITALY AND SWITZERLAND QUESTIONED WHETHER PARA 2 POSED CONTRADICTION BETWEEN EFFORTS TO FACILITATE TRAFFIC AND TO CONTROL ILLICIT DRUG FLOW. THESE DELEGATIONS NEVERTHELESS FELT THAT EXCEPTIONAL GRAVITY OF THIS PROBLEM WARRANTED SPECIAL MEASURES.

6. TURKEY REPLIED THAT THE LAST PREAMBULAR PARAGRAPH REFERRED TO THE NEED FOR A PROPER BALANCE BETWEEN NEEDS OF INSPECTION AND CONTROL AND FACILITATION OF INTERNATIONAL TRAFFIC. NETHERLANDS AND ROMANIA STRESSED THE IMPORTANCE OF EXCHANGE OF INFORMATION BY CUSTOMS OFFICIALS.

7. THE CHAIRMAN EXPRESSED THE AGREEMENT OF THE COMMITTEE WITH THE RESOLUTION WHICH IS VALUABLE FOR ALL COUNTRIES. HE SUGGESTED JUNE 1, 1974 AS THE DATE BY WHICH GOVERNMENTS WHICH ACCEPT THIS RESOLUTION SHOULD INFORM THE EXECUTIVE SECRETARY OF ECE.

ACTION REQUESTED: USG SHOULD NOTIFY ACCEPTANCE OF RESOLUTION CONTAINED IN ANNEX 4 (TRANS/392) AS SOON AS POSSIBLE. BASSIN

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NNN

*** Current Handling Restrictions *** n/a

*** Current Classification *** UNCLASSIFIED

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Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
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